and activities of UNCTAD. They reaffirmed their support for the important role of UNCTAD in providing research and policy analysis for the developing countries, especially in meeting the new opportunities and in responding to challenges derived from the conclusion and full implementation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Several delegations stressed that measures that might weaken or undermine the contribution of UNCTAD to the development process of developing countries should be prevented.

4. Some delegations welcomed the proposed reduction of resources and felt that some activities could be phased out, with further streamlining required under programme 13, Trade and development. They expressed regret that UNCTAD had failed to seize the opportunity to rationalize and better prioritize its work.

5. Some delegations welcomed the increased resources allocated for subprogramme 4, Poverty alleviation, of programme 13, but continued to be concerned at the relatively small share in the overall resource allocation for programme 13 despite the importance of the subprogramme. One delegation questioned the increase of resources in poverty eradication, which it believed was not a priority activity of UNCTAD.

6. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ as expressed in General Assembly resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994, and were concerned that adequate resources might not be provided under programme 15 for that purpose.

7. A number of delegations stressed the importance of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 2/ and questioned whether adequate resources had been proposed for related activities.

8. Several delegations expressed support for activities related to land-locked countries, and the need for ensuring that the special problems faced by those countries were addressed and necessary resources appropriated.

9. Several delegations expressed concern at the increase of 15 per cent in resources allocated to subprogramme 8, Privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness; and regretted that, in relation to resources, equal treatment was not given to other subprogrammes at the same level of priorities. Some delegations welcome the increased resources in the section.

10. In response to queries raised by some delegations regarding possible overlapping of the activities of UNCTAD and WTO, the Secretariat explained their respective mandates and working relationship, which reflected the complementarity between the two bodies, which were mutually supporting and required for responding to the rapid changes in the world economy. However, some delegations remained of the view that there was potential for duplication and urged that the issue be kept under close review.

11. One delegation recommended that paragraph 10A.56 be amended as follows:

(a) In line 3, the words "entrepreneurship and the strengthening of the private sector" should read "entrepreneurship, including through privatization, and the strengthening of the public and private sectors"; (b) delete the last sentence of the paragraph since there was no legislative mandate for those functions.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, on the basis of assurances from representatives of the Secretariat that the proposed reduction in the level of resources for 1996-1997 would in no way lead to curtailment of any mandated programmes and activities.

12. The Committee also recommended that in considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the General Assembly should give due attention to the opinions expressed by Member States as reflected in the discussion part of the present section.

Notes

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.